

Negroes Answer Red Cross War Fund Drive Raise \$1,551.00 To Date

Not Just Another
Paper—But A
Better Paper

The Century Voice

With Justice To All
And
Malice Toward None

NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE DOCTRINE OF UNIVERSAL DEMOCRACY
YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI, MARCH, 1943

VOLUME 1

No. 8

Century Convention To Be Held In Greenwood, Miss., Thursday, April 29, 1943 Plans Completed For 1,000 Subscriptions Per Month

MR. D. B. MORGAN CONGRATULATES THE CENTURY VOICE

About five years ago, a general meeting of all agents of the Century Burial Association was considered and agreed upon. That first meeting was held here in Yazoo City. It proved such a big success that it was finally decided that there should be an annual Convention of the Agents.

Just a little over three years prior to the first Convention, Mr. T. J. Huddleston, owner of the Century Burial Association, decided if the Association was to carry his name, then it must become worthy of it; so the main office was moved from Clarksdale to Yazoo City and at that time a collection of \$500.00 per month was considered a big sum. Today, \$500.00 only represents some of the individual monthly reports. The Century Burial Association has forged its way up through all other Burials until now it is the largest in the state.

We would probably forget to appreciate many of the good things that come to us, the privileges and opportunities which once we did not stop to consider, if it were not for occasional barriers—the present war for instance. War automatically change man's program.

MEETING PLACE CHANGED

Just before the close of the Century Burial Convention in Greenwood last year, when votes were cast for the next meeting place, those present were thrilled. The Columbus delegates and friends made such a strong fight that in the end when the votes were counted, Columbus won out. We were slated for Columbus, Mississippi District of which Mrs. J. M. Stringer is the capable manager for 1943 Convention.

Since the last meeting, many changes have taken place, over which we have no control, among which are the rationing of gas and tires. In view of these conditions, the executive head, in a recent conference, changed the Convention from Columbus to Greenwood, which is about centrally located. Although we had high hopes of going to Columbus, we do not mourn this change, because experience has taught us that no city gives us a more cordial welcome than Greenwood. A delegation has never been disappointed at Greenwood.

PROGRAM BEING FORMED

Plans are already going into effect for a splendid program. We hope to make this Convention, even in the face of obstacles, the best. The usual method of contributions from the various Districts will be used and we are asking the Managers of each District to begin now setting up plans for the Convention in accord with our regular one-day schedule. Thursday, April 29, 1943, has been selected as the date. We want to boost this meeting so that we shall have a great crowd. This is a period of sharing, especially, a space in our cars, therefore, do not forget to invite some one to ride with you.

REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED

Yes, refreshments will be served. That is saying a lot when we consider the rationing of food, but, provisions will be made whereby this part of our program will still go on because down through the ages nothing seems to bring people into better harmony than to feast together.

The full program will be carried in the April issue of this paper. Don't miss getting a copy and reading the program.

SENIOR CLASS 1943 LEAVES GIFT

For the first time in the history of the school, a graduating class will leave a token of remembrance. It is a fine thing to sing sweet songs and dedicate words of poetry to the old Alma Mater, but it is a finer thing to leave something tangible. This year the senior class of 1943 has given to Yazoo High School No. 2 a flag and pole, a most appropriate gift. We do not know of another gift in war times like these that would have been more fitting. We believe their gift will inspire a deeper loyalty and devotion in the entire student body. A suitable dedication program was rendered. We believe this example will be followed by future graduates and in years to come, when these students visit their old school, they will feel a deeper pride because they can see a sign of their old school days.

SPENDS QUIET BIRTHDAY

The Editor of the Century Voice had a birthday on March 2, 1943. The usual birthday festival was not given, instead he spent a very busy day in his office, working on income tax material and shaping the material for this issue of The Century Voice because he contemplates a short vacation in the very near future.

COMPLIMENTARY LETTER

Yazoo City, Miss.
March 10, 1943

T. J. Huddleston, Jr.,
Editor and Manager
The Century Voice
Yazoo City, Miss.
Dear T. J.:

I take this method of complimenting you and your assistants on your very fine publication, The Century Voice. From time to time, I have been reading this journal and have paid special attention to its make-up. I am sure it is filling a great need among your people.

Your news articles and editorials are always interesting and informing and we believe you will meet with a great success.

With best wishes for the advancement of your paper, I am,

Yours very truly,
MORGAN'S PHARMACY
By D. B. Morgan

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

In talking to the editor a few days ago, Mr. W. A. Joe Williams, owner and manager of the Williams Blacksmith Shop on Washington Street, said "It pays to advertise. My business has shown great increase since I placed an advertisement in The Century Voice." Mr. Williams is just one of the many business men who have gotten results through advertisements and we believe others could testify likewise. It does pay to advertise. Many, many dollars times the cost of advertisement have flowed into a business because of an advertisement and because the advertisement was placed in a widely circulated paper.

We were happy to add to our yearly contract advertisers the Williams Blacksmith Shop on Washington Street. Mr. Williams has been in the blacksmith trade for a number of years and is known for the first class work he does. He is prompt and dependable in all his dealings which means much to any trade.

RECEIVES TROPHY AWARD

The H. O. Sargeant Trophy Award of \$50, given annually at the national convention of the New Farmers of America in honor of the late Dr. H. O. Sargeant who was an Agricultural Education agent of the U. S. Office of Education, has this year been awarded to James Wright of Simsboro, La. The award carries with it a trophy, which may be retained by him for 12 months as the outstanding former NEA member who has become established as a Negro farmer. The chapter of the NEA, organization of Negro farm students with which Wright was identified was also awarded a special certificate confirming his winning the award.

Young Wright is now 24 years of age, married, and the father of one child. He received his farm training in the vocational agriculture department of the Louisiana Rural Normal Department of Vocational Agriculture where he is still enrolled on a part-time and evening class instruction basis. He is a member of the Rural War Production Class of his community.

The Simsboro-Fellowship Community is a community where the people depend on farming for a living. In this locality, some of the best hill farmers in the State of Louisiana are found.

Wright worked with his father during the time he attended the day unit school (1929-1933) but since his father's death he has purchased land, livestock, and equipment for himself while retaining some family-partner relationship. These, excluding cash in savings and bonds and including aid to dependents, amount this year to more than \$2,305 of his share of a \$5,992 asset of land, equipment, and other valuations. Of this sum, he has no outstanding debt in mortgages, notes or other liabilities.

The \$50 award he received has been invested as the nucleus of a fund to purchase beef cattle.

JUDGE BARBOUR CALLS

In a certain church the members repeat, as a part of the closing service, the following: "What would this church be, if all the members served just like me." These words came to me when I considered our service as compared with those on the fighting front. What would this war be if everybody served just like me—What would the Red Cross Drive be if everyone gave just like me."

Just a few days ago, Judge Barbour, permanent chairman of the Red Cross War Relief Fund, called us to answer to the Red Cross. This was not a strange and new call, each year a free will gift is asked for the Red Cross. Last year the quota was \$7,000.00, this year the quota is \$15,500.00.

It is not necessary to go into detail what this great organization has done and is doing, we believe it is enough to say that out on the battlefield, a soldier is wounded, it may be your husband or brother, at any rate, it is someone's son; you are not there, the mother is not there, but this soldier is picked up and the same care you would give is given through the Red Cross. If this Country has asked their lives, is it too much to ask our dollar. If they can sacrifice a life, is it too much to sacrifice a dollar.

Our country is bomb free, our children still play safely on the lawns, our schools, churches and hospitals are not wrecked and torn by the enemy—for all this we are grateful, demonstration of which is made by our response to the Red Cross. Have you given? Was your gift as much as you could afford?

MAY BE USED

Negroes from the Bahama Islands may be used to relieve the farm labor shortage in Florida and, possibly, other southern states should the shortage become acute, it was revealed this week.

Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, announced that he has sent three representatives to the Bahama Islands, to complete the agreement, in process of negotiation for some time, with the Government of the Islands for bringing Bahamian workers into this country for agricultural work.

The government representatives went first to Miami, Fla., where they conferred with farmers and local officials to get their views before proceeding to the Bahaman capital, Nassau.

Fred Morrell, assistant director of the newly-organized Agricultural Labor Administration; Mason Barr, of the Farm Security Administration; and Clarence Blau, of the Office of the Solicitor, are the Agriculture Department representatives.

Mr. Wickard said that the number of workers who would be brought to Florida and surrounding states would depend upon the number which the Bahamas is willing to make available and upon the needs of the growers for their services.

IN THE BULLETIN

WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR:

The Highest Reporting Agents For The Month

DISTRICT MEETING DATES

TOTAL NUMBER OF CENTURY DEATHS

AGENT WHO WRITES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH

AGENT WHO MAKES THE HIGHEST INCREASE IN REMITTANCE DURING THE MONTH

LEADING DISTRICT MEETING REPORTS

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

In our last issue we published an article concerning the importance of an education in connection with which, we offered a Scholarship of \$500.00.

We have been agreeably surprised with the response given this article. Numerous letters and cards have already come to the Editor's desk, expressing the desire to enter the contest; some of these came by return mail.

We wish to commend those who acted so promptly because to win a state wide contest, every day counts. Special preparation has been made in our office to take care of the contest subscriptions. We shall endeavor to see that every subscriber receives his or her paper. We are urging all contestants to be careful to send us the correct address, any change in address should be reported to the office immediately as we do not want anything to hinder the progress of our contestants. This contest is expected to put a Century Voice in practically every home in the state and in many other states.

Many of the young people who have entered the contest are looking forward to entering college for the first time, some are looking toward graduating from College and still some will be entering high school—whatever the grading, they know that \$500.00 will go a long way on entering fees. We do not know of a better method to help some energetic and ambitious boy or girl and at the same time widen the circulation of the Century Voice, than this method we have chosen. We are indeed grateful to those who have already requested an entry and we hope success will follow every effort.

OUT FOR INCREASED ATTENDANCE

At a recent teacher's meeting of the Mt. Vernon Baptist Sunday School, a campaign was launched for a larger attendance in the Sunday School. This campaign will work to the method of each student bringing some boy or girl who does not attend Sunday School anywhere.

This is a splendid step toward building a better city. It is a shame on the membership of the churches of the town to allow the streets to be crowded with boys and girls, young men and young women on Sundays when there are so many vacancies in the Sunday School. It would be well if all churches of the town will start a "Go to Sunday School Campaign," because there are enough who do not attend to swell the attendance at all the churches.

CLARKSDALE AND GREENWOOD BRANCHES NEAR A TIE

In checking our regular reports on the eleventh of each month in the Clarksdale and Greenwood Districts we find that these two districts report nearly the same amounts. Mr. John Edwards who is the manager of the Greenwood District, declares he is not going to let Clarksdale hold the banner very much longer. In the coming convention of the Century which will be held in Greenwood April 29, 1943, the Century members and agents will find out just where the banner will be placed for the next twelve months.

NELSON'S VARIETY STORE

The most recent addition to Yazoo City's business establishments is Nelson's Variety Store, located on Main Street just below the Bank of Yazoo City in the old C. W. Farmer building. This store is operated by Mr. Nelson who successfully operates the Nelson Dry Goods Store. The same fine qualities and the same courteousness which exists at Nelson's Dry Goods Store will be found in the new Variety Store. Mr. Nelson is known throughout the years he has been in business to give more value to the customer's dollar. The public is cordially invited to shop at Nelson's Variety Store.

NOTICE TO ALL CENTURY MEMBERS

In the event your agent does not call to collect your regular monthly premiums, be sure to mail them to the home office. If you do this, you are assured of being financial.